



Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003

## Courts to Open During Lunch Hour

By Dean Stout  
Presiding Judge,  
Inyo County Superior Court

Effective Nov. 3, 2003, the Inyo County Superior Court will be open to serve the public during the noon hour.

Currently, the court's clerk's offices are open daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., but closed during the noon lunch hour. Starting Nov. 3, the clerk's offices in Bishop and Independence will be open daily from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., but will remain open during the lunch hour.

By opening at 8 a.m. and remaining open during the noon lunch hour, the court hopes to provide the public with more convenient access to the court. Closing the counters in the clerk's offices at 4 p.m. will allow the clerks uninterrupted time to process an ever increasing number of cases. According to statistics from the Judicial Council of California, the Inyo County Superior Court ranked number two among all courts of the state during the fiscal year 2001-2002 in the number of case filings per judicial position equivalents. Clerks of the court processed 15,006 filings during the 2001-2002, an increase of 536 cases over the previous fiscal year.

Perhaps the greater significance is the fact that the Inyo County Superior Court once again ranked number one in the state in the number of case disposition, per judicial position equivalents. During fiscal year 2001-2002, the Inyo County Superior Court concluded 18,336 cases, an increase of 1,668 cases from the previous fiscal year. The Inyo County Superior Court processed 7,349 cases per judicial equivalents, with the second ranking court (Merced) processing 5,841. The statewide average of dispositions per judicial position equivalent was 3,789 compared to our court's 7,349 cases.

The credit for this outstanding record of processing and disposing of cases rests primarily with the dedicated and hard working clerks of the court. Hopefully, an hour of relatively uninterrupted work time at the end of the day will help them maintain their incredible record of efficiency.

The court trusts that the change in hours of operation will be a "win-win" situation, affording the public with access to the court during the non-traditional work hours (8-9 a.m. and the noon lunch hour), and also providing court staff with valuable time to continue to effectively and efficiently process cases.

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